



Let's Get Moving

Transportation issues are not divided by political party, but by region, district, county, and the individual needs of our state. We must get people moving safely on our highways again. One of the surest ways to maintain economic growth is to reduce congestion and provide for enhanced mobility. I will continue to fight to:

- Maintain funding for the SR 161/Meridian Avenue widening project
- Explore options to expand Canyon Road south to 224th Street
- Finish construction of Spanaway Loop to 176th Street, diverting traffic from our neighborhoods
- Improve the safety of Highway 162 in the Orting Valley

Did You Know?

I have sponsored a bill this year to stop election fraud, plus legislation to establish the crime and penalties for identity theft. They are:

- House Bill 1739 will protect the integrity of the voter registration process by establishing penalties for those who fraudulently register.
- House Bill 1321 defines private information and closes any loopholes, making criminals responsible for ruining your credit and good name. It would also require an identity thief to repay charges and attorney fees, plus add a civil penalty of \$500.



State Representative
Roger Bush
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Olympia, WA 98504-0600

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Inside: Spotlight on Energy



Representative
Roger Bush
**Report to the
2nd District**

Committees:
Technology, Telecommunications and Energy
Capital Budget
Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
Rules
Joint Select Committee on Veterans' and
Military Affairs
Joint Legislative Committee on Economic
Development
Attorney General's Task Force on Consumer Privacy
Olympia office:
415 John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, Wash. 98504
Telephone:
360-786-7824 or
1-800-562-6000 (Legislative Hotline)
E-mail:
bush_ro@leg.wa.gov

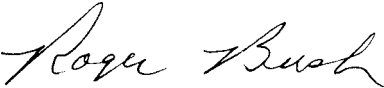
A Positive Agenda for South Pierce County and Washington

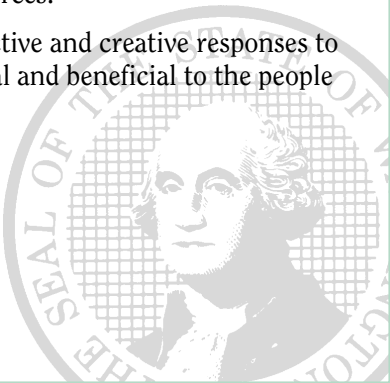
Dear Friends,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to continue representing our community in the state capitol. I sincerely appreciate your show of confidence and I take very seriously the responsibility of serving on your behalf.

My first priority is to address the issues and concerns you and your neighbors have shared with me. First and foremost, you want safety and accountability in our schools so that teachers can teach and children can learn. You've said you'd like to keep more of your hard-earned dollars, so you'd like a smaller, less costly and less intrusive government – one that *serves* rather than *dictates*. Lastly, you've told me you are tired of being stuck in traffic and stuck with skyrocketing electric bills because of a neglected highway system and over-regulation of our energy resources.

I look forward to working with other House members to craft constructive and creative responses to the challenges confronting us – and to do this in ways that are practical and beneficial to the people of the 2nd District and all of Washington. You have my pledge on that.

Sincerely,

Roger Bush
State Representative





SPOTLIGHT

Where are we on energy?



It's a good idea to improve conservation efforts, and we all certainly could and should. But state lawmakers need to do more to develop long-term solutions to the looming energy crisis.

The plain and simple facts are that we need to generate more power with new facilities. Gov. Gary Locke has opposed efforts to increase power generation in the past, but the gap between energy supply and demand is just too big to be filled by conservation alone.

So, how exactly did all of this happen? There are many factors.

In the Western United States, energy is bought and sold from power generation facilities to wholesale distributors and then to suppliers who sell it to us. The severe shortages in California mean less electricity to go around and higher prices for families and businesses here. However, while it would be simple to blame the entire crisis on our power-hungry southern neighbors, or the money-hungry utilities, they aren't the only reason for your higher energy bills.

The immediate cause of higher than normal electricity prices in the Pacific Northwest is low rainfall and snowpack, which has reduced the supply of water behind generating dams. Without water, these dams, which produce low-cost energy, cannot produce electricity, and power must be purchased from other, higher-priced sources.

But the true root of the problem was our failure as a region to build more generating facilities during the 1990s to keep up with the growing demand. In California, for example, the population grew 14 percent during the 1990s, but they didn't build one new facility to generate more power. Here in Washington, we haven't made a major commitment to build electrical energy production facilities since the 1970s.

If this crisis shows one thing, it's that we need more power-generating capability, not less.

As a member of the House Technology, Telecommunications and Energy Committee, I appreciate Gov. Locke's recent efforts to work closely with Republicans. The governor has put forth some good ideas, including energy assistance programs for low-income families and tax breaks for energy-conserving appliances. These will help people in the short-term.

But the time has come for our governor to take action. All the talk in the world isn't going to help the people in Pierce County who've seen their electric bills shoot up, some by 43 to 75 percent.

Gov. Locke has the authority to expedite the review process for facility siting, and he needs to use it. Without a serious commitment to reduce permitting and other regulatory obstacles, this crisis will continue – well into the future.

House Republicans propose an additional package of legislation that would address Washington's energy problem long-term. Our plan would streamline regulations so that plants up to 550 megawatts would not have to go through the state review process, as long as they meet local and federal requirements. It would also give the governor authority to expedite the siting of new generation facilities. We must remove unnecessary barriers that keep us from generating the power we need. Without a commitment to new construction, the crisis will continue.



Rep. Roger Bush sponsored Margaret Scully, 16, a sophomore at Lakes High School in Pierce County, as a legislative page in the state House of Representatives.

Refining State Laws

Using a common-sense approach to problem solving, I hope to refine a few state laws, including:

- ★ **Prohibiting the use of intoxication as a defense in court cases.** Based upon a Montana statute that has been declared constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court, a bill I introduced in January has the potential to save lives – from victims of drunk drivers to those of domestic violence. Criminals shouldn't be able to stand up in court and blame the alcohol or drugs for their actions. We must still hold them fully accountable for their crime.
- ★ **Allowing state election officials to make unannounced visits** to observe local election processes. State law is a bit ambiguous on the subject, so this legislation would authorize the secretary of state, or staff of the elections division of the office of secretary of state, to make unannounced on-site visits to county election offices and facilities to observe the handling, processing, counting or tabulation of election ballots. It would help build on the sense of security and confidence already in place in Washington's election system and protects county auditors from any perception of wrongdoing.
- ★ **Removing mole traps from those banned** by Initiative 713, which placed a statewide ban on some types of animal traps. My simple clarification would place mole traps in the same category as mouse and rat traps without changing the intent of the initiative passed by the people. The common mole is very destructive and can ruin everything from agricultural crops to prize-winning flower gardens.

This package of bills continues my efforts to find practical ways to help the people of the state. None are big, sweeping changes that will cost taxpayers more or put unfunded mandates on local governments. Republicans and Democrats alike also support them.

Tell me what's important to you

Please rank the following issues on a scale of one to five, with one being very important and five being not important to you. I also invite you to include your comments below. If you'd like more information on the issues that are important to you, please provide an address or e-mail. **When you have completed the survey, please mail it to me at PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504-0600.**

_____ Taxes and spending	_____ Environment
_____ Education	_____ Limiting state regulations
_____ Prescription drug costs	_____ Controlling energy costs
_____ Traffic congestion and safety	_____ Other _____
_____ Preventing crime/Public safety	

Comments: _____

☐ Please send me more information on the issues that I've indicated are most important to me: Name _____ Address _____ E-mail _____

Town Halls:

Saturday, March 3

2 – 3:30 p.m.
Graham Library
9202 224th E.
Graham

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Parkland/
Spanaway Library
13718 Pacific Ave. S.
Tacoma